

Outcomes of the Blind Water Taste Test
Centennial Celebration of the Citrus Experiment Station
University of California, Riverside
April 22, 2006

The UC Center for Water Resources conducted a blind taste test of public water supply (tap water) and bottled water for visitors at the Centennial Celebration of the University of California Citrus Experiment Station on April 22, 2006.

The public water supply came from the tap in a home in an Inland Empire community and the bottled water came from the 5-gallon home delivery bottles of a water supplier in the Inland Empire. The ice cubes used to cool the water were made with water of the same sources.

For 327 people who tasted the water and submitted ballots:

108 (33%) favored Water A (the public water supply)
201 (61%) favored Water B (bottled water delivered to a home)
18 (6%) were not able to distinguish the difference

This was an informal poll that did not involve randomization, replication, or control groups in sources of water and/or tasters. Had different sources of water been chosen, the outcomes may have differed.

Additional information about bottled water and public water supply in Southern California may be found in a report on Drinking Water Quality on the website of the UCLA Institute of the Environment:

<http://www.ioe.ucla.edu/reportCard/report00/html/drinkingquality.html>.